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AP 8 Feb 55

TEXT MALENKOV's RESIGNATION

AS SOVIET PREMIER

Noted by DCI
9/10/55 dt

To the chairman of the joint meeting of the Soviet of the Union and the Soviet of Nationalities:

"I ask you to bring to the notice of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR my request to be relieved from the post of Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR. My request is due to practical considerations on the necessity of strengthening the leadership of the Council of Ministers and the need to have at the post of Chairman of the Council of Ministers another comrade with greater experience in state work.

"I clearly see that the carrying out of the complicated and responsible duties of Chairman of the Council of Ministers is being negatively affected by my insufficient experience in local work, and the fact that I did not have occasion, in a ministry or some economic organ, to effect direct guidance of individual branches of national economy.

"I also consider myself bound to say in the present statement that now, when the Communist party of the Soviet Union and the workers of our country are concentrating special efforts for the most rapid development of agriculture, I see particularly clearly my guilt and responsibility for the unsatisfactory state of affairs that has arisen in agriculture, because for several years past I have been entrusted with the duty of controlling and guiding the work of central agricultural organs and the work of local party and administrative organizations in the sphere of agriculture.

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"The Communist party, on the initiative and under the guidance of the Central Committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union has already worked out and is implementing a series of large-scale measures for overcoming the lagging behind in agriculture.

"Among such important measures is, undoubtedly, the reform of agricultural taxation, regarding which I think it opportune to say that it was carried out on the initiative of and in accordance with the proposals of the Central Committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union. It is now evident what important role this reform played in task of developing agriculture.

"Now, as is known, on the initiative and under the guidance of the Central Committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union, a general program has been worked out to overcome the lagging behind in agriculture and for its most rapid development.

"This program is based on the only correct foundation: The further development by every means of heavy industry, and only its implementation, will create the necessary conditions for a real upsurge in the production of all essential commodities for popular consumption.

"It is to be expected that various bourgeois hysterical viragos will busy themselves with slanderous inventions in connection with my present statement, and the fact itself of my release from the post of Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, but we, Communists and Soviet people, will ignore this lying and slander.

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"The interests of the motherland, the people and the Communist party stand above everything for everyone of us.

"Expressing the request for my release from the post of Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, I wish to assure the USSR Supreme Soviet that, in the new sphere entrusted to me, I will, under the guidance of the Central Committee of the Communist party of the Soviet Union, monolithic in its unity and solidarity, and the Soviet Government, perform in the most conscientious manner my duty and the functions which will be entrusted to me."

Chariman of the USSR Council of Ministers,

MALENKOV

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